

January 15, 2005

RECEIVED

RE: TRA Docket #'s 04-00166 and 04- 00211

2005 FEB 11 AM 10:39

T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

Mr. Riley Darnell  
Secretary of State  
Tennessee State Capitol  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
1-615-741-2819

Dear Sir:

The Tennessee Regulatory Authority Docket 04-00166 and 04-00211, if approved, could allow higher rates for calls from inmates at Tennessee jails and prisons. I am urging you to support the children and families of prisoners and vote against any increases in costs and any possible decreases in the time length of calls from a state or local penial institution.

Families of Tennessee prisoners are the forgotten victims of crime. Innocent of any wrong doing, they too often suffer in silence.. It is therefore very important that elected and appointed government officials protect our interests. Our families are primarily responsible for telephone and many other expenditures of our incarcerated love ones. The proposed changes would result in drastic telephone rate increases that we cannot afford. We also cannot afford to stop improving our family relationships through regular 30-minute telephone calls. Healthy family bonds during imprisonment help to reduce repeated incarcerations and ultimately make our communities safer for all Tennessee families. To shorten the length of the calls would be devastating to family bonds. Affordable local and long distance calls are especially critical for families who are not physically or financially able to visit prisons that are often in remote locations where public transportation is not available and over night accommodations and meals would drive up the costs. I am also concerned that the current telephone provider, Global Tel-Link lacks accountability to its customers. We insist that improved customer service and better billing services are required of all telephone service providers to prisons and jails in Tennessee.

As a concerned citizen, I will be watching these issues very closely. I earnestly hope that you will support families of Tennessee's prisoners and not the interests of big business.

Sincerely,

*Mary Palmer*

*173 Coal Chute Rd.*

*Elizabethton, Tennessee*

*37643*

January 15, 2005

RECEIVED

2005 FEB 11 AM 10:39

T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

RE: TRA Docket #'s 04-00166 and 04- 00211

Mr. Riley Darnell  
Secretary of State  
Tennessee State Capitol  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
1-615-741-2819

Dear Sir:

The Tennessee Regulatory Authority Docket 04-00166 and 04-00211, if approved, could allow higher rates for calls from inmates at Tennessee jails and prisons. I am urging you to support the children and families of prisoners and vote against any increases in costs and any possible decreases in the time length of calls from a state or local penial institution.

Families of Tennessee prisoners are the forgotten victims of crime. Innocent of any wrong doing, they too often suffer in silence.. It is therefore very important that elected and appointed government officials protect our interests. Our families are primarily responsible for telephone and many other expenditures of our incarcerated love ones. The proposed changes would result in drastic telephone rate increases that we cannot afford. We also cannot afford to stop improving our family relationships through regular 30-minute telephone calls. Healthy family bonds during imprisonment help to reduce repeated incarcerations and ultimately make our communities safer for all Tennessee families. To shorten the length of the calls would be devastating to family bonds. Affordable local and long distance calls are especially critical for families who are not physically or financially able to visit prisons that are often in remote locations where public transportation is not available and over night accommodations and meals would drive up the costs. I am also concerned that the current telephone provider, Global Tel-Link lacks accountability to its customers. We insist that improved customer service and better billing services are required of all telephone service providers to prisons and jails in Tennessee.

As a concerned citizen, I will be watching these issues very closely. I earnestly hope that you will support families of Tennessee's prisoners and not the interests of big business.

Sincerely,

*Johnny Palmer*

*173 Coal Chute Rd.  
Elizabethton, Tenn. 37643*

RECEIVED

2005 FEB 11 AM 10:39

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM T MILLER

FEB 11 2005

January 21, 2005

Governor Phil Bredesen  
State Capitol  
Nashville, TN 37243-0001

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
Pat Miller, Chairperson  
460 James Robertson Pkwy  
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

Dear Governor Bredesen:  
Chairperson Miller:

I, the undersigned, am a family member of an individual held in the custody of the Tennessee Department of Correction. It is my understanding that the Tennessee Department of Corrections, has requested a rate increase for local and long-distance phone calls made by prisoners to family members and friends.

It is also my understanding that the Tennessee Legislature, after a comprehensive study by the Tennessee Dept. of Correction's Research and Planning Division, TN; (Joint Senate Resolution 319, and the Family Visitation and Crime Reduction Act; T.C.A. 41-21-243), have found that maintaining family ties is an important factor in reducing recidivism and in helping prisoners to make a successful return to society.

Since we, the family members, have no choice in the companies used to provide telephone services for calls from our loved ones in prison, and the ever increasing phone rates are imposing an enormous financial strain on family members, I respectfully urge you, and the Tennessee Regulatory Authority to deny the Tennessee Department of Correction's request for a rate increase in phone services provided Tennessee's prison population and family members of prisoners. We thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Respectfully,

*Delores A. Ferguson - Hill*

*2366 Dalebrook Ct.*

*Davidson, Co.  
Nashville, TN 37206*

Address / City/County / Zip Code